

FINDING AND RECOMMENDATION(S)

Submitted by: Conservation Community

Finding: *(i.e., Conclusions reached after investigation and/or evaluation of facts)*

There is a need for local fire districts, rather than regional or state fire agencies, to receive local taxes and implement fire prevention programs with those funds. Local taxes should be tied to local performance goals for community compliance with defensible space.

Background and Supporting Evidence: *(A short statement justifying the Finding and describing desired outcome(s); usually no more than half a page.)*

- » Local fire districts are responsible for defensible space inspections, and work with their constituents to assess and implement fire hazard reduction measures. Since the great majority of private property in the Tahoe Basin is out of compliance with defensible space regulations, money should be focused on local inspections and implementations.
- » The cost of treatment per acre can in some instances be higher in the Tahoe Basin than in other areas of the Sierras. Consequently, money needs to stay within the community to effectively treat properties. Federal and state allocations in the Tahoe Basin need to be matched or complemented by local funds.
- » Tahoe is a unique environment with regards to the need for more protective regulations, including BMP implementation, which must be coordinated with defensible space implementation. Local fire protection districts are in a position to best understand the local environment, communities and defensible space regulations.
- » Defensible space compliance is highly variable throughout the Basin with variable urban densities. Local fire protection districts are better able to gauge the needs and compliance and remove obstacles.

Recommendation(s) *(Based upon an analysis of the Finding, the following recommendation(s) should be made to the Governors):*

The following Recommendations apply Basin wide (in both states):

1. **Provide financial incentives for homeowners in local fire protection districts to implement defensible space (tax breaks)**
2. **Allocate a greater portion of local taxes to local fire protection districts**
3. **Develop performance standards for initial and follow-up (enforcement) inspections specific to each local area to provide the basis for the use of fire district personnel time and resources**

Impacts of Implementation: *(The implementation of any Recommendation is likely to have specific impacts. Consider potential consequences related to each of the following areas):*

Analysis of impacts on the following factors is **REQUIRED** (Best Estimate):

- ☐ Cost
 - Additional cost will not be a factor because there will be a redistribution of funds
- ☐ Funding source
- ☐ Staffing
- ☐ Existing regulations and/or laws

Analysis of impacts on the following factors is **OPTIONAL**:

- ☐ Operational
- ☐ Social
- ☐ Political
- ☐ Policy
- ☐ Health and Safety
- ☐ Environmental
 - Since local fire districts can better evaluate all dynamics involved in defensible space than regional or state agencies, fire hazard will be reduced.
- ☐ Interagency